patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

What is claimed is:

- 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding an SSE polypeptide.
  - 2. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes an SSE polypeptide having at least 30% identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).
    - 3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said sequence encodes an SSE polypeptide that, when expressed in a cell of a plant, modifies the production of food storage reserves.
    - 4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes an SSE polypeptide that, when expressed in a cell of a plant, facilitates the intracellular transport of a storage protein.
    - 5. The nucleic acid/molecule of claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes an SSE polypeptide that, when expressed in a cell of a plant, facilitates the formation of protein bodies.
    - 6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes an SSE polypeptide that when expressed in a cell of a plant, facilitates the formation of oil bodies.

- 7. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is cDNA.
- 8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding an SSE polypeptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule hybridizes specifically to the nucleic acid molecule comprising the cDNA of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1).
- 9. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said sequence encodes an SSE polypeptide having at least 30% identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).
- 10. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 8, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a promoter functional in a plant cell.
- 11. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 8, said vector being capable of directing expression of the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule.
  - 712. A cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 8.
  - 13. The cell of claim 12, wherein said cell is a plant cell.
  - 14. The cell of claim 12, wherein said cell is a bacterial cell.
  - 15. The cell of claim 12, wherein said bacterial cell is Agrobacterium.

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A transgenic plant or transgenic plant component comprising a nucleic

acid molecule of claim 1 or 8, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is expressed in said transgenic plant or said transgenic plant component.

- 17. The plant or plant component of claim 16, wherein said transgenic plant or transgenic plant component is an angiosperm.
- 5 18. The plant or plant component of claim 16, wherein said transgenic plant or transgenic plant component is a dicot.
  - 19. The plant or plant component of claim 16, wherein said transgenic plant or transgenic plant component is a cruciferous plant.
  - 20. The plant or plant component of claim 16, wherein said transgenic plant or transgenic plant component is a monocot.

21. A seed from a transgenic plant or transgenic plant component of claim

22. A cell from a transgenic plant or transgenic plant component of claim

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- 23. An expression vector for producing antisense SSE RNA.
- 24. A transgenic plant or transgenic plant component comprising the vector of claim 23.
  - 25. A seed from a transgenic plant or transgenic plant component of claim

- 26. A cell from a transgenic plant or transgenic plant component of claim 24.
- 27. A substantially pure SSE polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 30% identity to the amino acid sequence of Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).
  - 28. The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide modifies the production of food storage reserves.
  - 29. The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide facilitates the intracellular transport of a storage protein.
  - 30. The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide facilitates the formation of protein bodies.
- 31. The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide facilitates the formation of oil bodies.
  - 32. A method of producing an SSE polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a cell transformed with a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 8 positioned for expression in the cell;
- 20 (b) culturing the transformed cell under conditions for expressing the nucleic acid molecule; and

- (c) recovering the SSE polypeptide.
- 33. A recombinant SSE polypeptide produced according to the method of claim 32.
- 34. A substantially pure antibody that specifically recognizes and binds to an
  5 SSE polypeptide or a portion thereof.
  - 35. The antibody of claim 34, wherein said antibody recognizes and binds to a recombinant SSE polypeptide or a portion thereof.
  - 36. A method of isolating an SSE gene or fragment thereof, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) contacting the nucleic acid molecule of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1) or a portion thereof with a nucleic acid preparation from a plant cell under hybridization conditions providing detection of nucleic acid sequences having at least 30% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1); and
    - (b) isolating said hybridizing nucleic acid sequences.
  - 37. A method of isolating an SSE gene or fragment thereof, said method comprising the steps of:
    - (a) providing a sample of plant cell DNA;
  - (b) providing a pair of oligonucleotides having sequence identity to a region of the nucleic acid of Fig. 2A (SEQ ID NO:1);
- (c) contacting the pair of oligonucleotides with said plant cell DNA under conditions suitable for polymerase chain reaction-mediated DNA amplification; and
  - (d) isolating the amplified SSE gene or fragment thereof.

- 38. The method of claim 37, wherein said amplification step is carried out using a sample of cDNA prepared from a plant cell.
- 39. The method of claim 37, wherein said pair of oligonucleotides are based on a sequence encoding an SSE polypeptide, wherein the SSE polypeptide is at least 30% identical to the amino acid sequence of Fig. 2B (SEQ ID NO:2).